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La Porte police catch car burglary suspect minutes after crime occurs



By: Dana Guthrie

A rapid patrol response and help from alert witnesses led to the quick arrest of a car burglary suspect in La Porte, not long after the alleged burglary occurred, and despite the suspect's plea that a witness let him go without calling police.

On Monday, April 23, just before 7 p.m., La Porte police officers responded to the 400 block of S. Virginia St., where a vehicle burglary had just occurred.

A witness in the home had seen the suspect, identified by police as Jason Scott Radford, 28, while the crime was being committed, police Sgt. John Krueger said.

When the witness confronted the suspect, "Radford apologized as if he had entered a vehicle belonging to a friend," Krueger said. "However, as the concerned citizen demanded the leave the area immediately, Radford pleaded with them not to call the police and left quickly on foot."

On his way out of the driveway, Radford picked up a backpack and exposed a series of tattoos, two descriptors that made it easy for police to find him, Krueger said.

They were able to locate Radford at a nearby business, where he was allegedly in possession of several items from the victim's vehicle. Radford is charged with burglary of a motor vehicle, which carries a fine of up to \$4,000 and the possibility of up to a year in jail. The items allegedly stolen, valued at more than \$1,400 were processed and released to the owner, Krueger said.